



City of Eureka, California

Class Specification

This is a class specification and not an individualized job description. A class specification defines the general character and scope of responsibilities of all positions in a job classification, but it is not intended to describe and does not necessarily list every duty for a given position in a classification.

Class Title	Firefighter
Class Code Number	6020

General Statement of Duties

Responds to fires, medical emergencies, and other emergency and non-emergency situations to protect life and property; performs directly related work as required.

Distinguishing Features of the Class

The principal function of an employee in this class is to respond to fires, medical emergencies, and other emergency and non-emergency situations to ensure the protection of life and property of the general public in the City. The work is performed under the supervision and direction of a Fire Captain, but considerable leeway is granted for the exercise of independent judgement and initiative. The nature of the work performed requires an employee in this class to establish and maintain effective working relationships with all others contacted in the course of work. The principal duties of this class are performed in various emergency and non-emergency situations, including exposure to hazardous materials, large quantities of smoke, heavy traffic areas, intense heat, direct exposure to flames, decimated structures, extreme weather conditions, blood-borne pathogens, and other related environments in which the employee is subject to potential personal danger.

Examples of Essential Work (Illustrative Only)

- Responds to fire alarms, delivers all equipment, and implements fire suppression and firefighting techniques to rescue victims and protect private and public property;
- Assumes a designated position on an assigned apparatus and follows command structure instructions for fire suppression or related emergency services;
- Serves within a command structure requiring adherence to officers' orders in life threatening situations;
- Responds to structural fires, and performs search and rescue operations to remove persons from burning structures, and fire suppression techniques as appropriate, including laying and connecting hose, operating fire streams as directed, raising and climbing ladders, ventilating roofs, and windows, operating fire pumpers, using extinguishing agents as necessary;

- Operates all types of portable fire extinguishers, pike poles, hand lines, smoke ejectors, salvage covers, forcible entry tools, aerial ladder equipment, emergency medical equipment, and other firefighting and medical equipment as required;
- Performs salvage duties at fire scenes by placing salvage covers, sweeping, vacuuming up water, and removing debris;
- Obtains and preserves evidence at a fire scene, and participates in determining fire origin and cause;
- Participates in fire training sessions, including Fire Fighting Training, EMS Training, and proper use of all related tools and equipment;
- Inspects building structures to ensure code compliance, explains City fire codes and fire prevention policies and procedures to the general public, and prepares complete and accurate reports of inspection activities as required;
- Responds to emergency medical calls, and administers advanced first aid and/or basic life support as appropriate, including assessing patients, CPR, resuscitation, operating automated external defibrillator, rescue breathing, administration of oxygen, recording vital signs, and other related medical treatments as appropriate;
- Responds to emergency rescue calls, including auto accidents requiring extrication, search and rescue, gas system leaks, confined space rescue, and rope rescues;
- Performs overhaul operations to ensure the complete suppression of fire;
- Responds to a variety of alarms and follows established procedures to investigate;
- Operates and maintains a variety of fire vehicles, apparatus, and equipment on a training basis;
- Maintains fire equipment in a clean and operable condition, including performing daily equipment checks, and repairing damaged equipment as necessary;
- Ensures the use of appropriate fire fighting safety apparel and equipment, and follows appropriate safety procedures as required;
- Works closely with other emergency medical staff, public safety, and fire personnel from other agencies, depending upon response situation;
- Responds to hazardous materials emergencies, including scene assessment, identifying the extent of damage and/or potential hazard to the community, implementing containment plans, and protecting fire personnel and civilians from exposure to chemicals;
- Responds to man made and natural disasters, including fires, floods, earthquakes, crash rescues and other catastrophic events, including providing medical assistance and removing persons from harmful structures or exposure to fire, smoke, adverse weather conditions, and harmful materials;
- Maintains an awareness of other Fire personnel on detail for the purpose of protecting other Firefighters' lives as necessary;
- Participates in Fire drills;
- Makes verbal and written analyses of activities involved in any fire emergency situation;
- Performs all necessary training activities as assigned and in accordance with readiness and preparation for firefighting activities, including training in fire suppression, emergency medical training, hazardous materials, vehicle extrication, technical rescues, equipment use and maintenance, and other related functions;
- Performs physical fitness training to maintain physical abilities necessary for firefighting;
- Maintains station and personal living areas in a clean and orderly manner, and maintains surrounding grounds to ensure a safe and pleasant environment for fire personnel and the general public;
- Participates in a variety of public awareness activities to promote good public relations and fire safety awareness, including providing tours of fire facilities and giving presentations at local schools as requested;
- Keeps immediate supervisor and designated others accurately informed concerning work progress, including present and potential work problems and suggestions for new or improved ways of addressing such problems;
- Attends meetings, conferences, workshops, and training sessions and reviews publications and audio-visual materials to become and remain current on principles, practices, and new developments in assigned work areas;
- Responds to questions and comments from the public in a courteous and timely manner;
- Communicates and coordinates regularly with appropriate others to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of interdepartmental operations and activities;
- Performs other directly related duties consistent with the role and function of the classification.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Some knowledge of City policies and procedures;
- Some knowledge of Fire Department policies, rules, and procedures;
- Some knowledge of the principles and practices of fire suppression, rescue, and salvage;
- Some knowledge of principles and practices of providing basic first aid;
- Some knowledge properties of hazardous materials and appropriate containment and clean-up techniques;
- Some knowledge of related Federal, State, and local laws, codes, ordinances, and regulations;
- Some knowledge of basic operational and maintenance practices and methods for a variety of fire apparatus and equipment;
- Some knowledge of the principles, practices, procedures, equipment, and apparatuses used in firefighting, chemical and hazardous materials, rescue, and various other emergency responses;
- Some knowledge of the geography of the City;
- Ability to act in accordance with departmental policies, rules, and instructions related to firefighting operations;
- Ability to quickly learn the principles, practices, and procedures of modern firefighting;
- Ability to demonstrate the mechanical aptitude necessary to maintain and operate all related fire fighting equipment;
- Ability to demonstrate physical aptitude as determined by the Department;
- Ability to meet the first aid requirement as prescribed by the State of California and to safely and effectively administer first aid as necessary;
- Ability to learn the City's water main system and street numbering system;
- Ability to effectively analyze fire and emergency situations and adopt effective courses of action;
- Ability to effectively operate and maintain voice radio equipment;
- Ability to efficiently perform fire suppression, rescue, and salvage work;
- Ability to maintain a calm and professional demeanor when responding to emergency situations;
- Ability to use sound judgement and effectively treat victims in emergency situations;
- Ability to learn the geographical layout of the City and related surrounding areas;
- Ability to effectively function as a team member working under the leadership of a command officer;
- Ability to efficiently operate and maintain fire suppression equipment, supplies, and vehicles;
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with the Command Officers, other Fire Department personnel, other City employees, area businesses, civic and community organizations, and the general public;
- Ability to effectively deal with individuals from various socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds;
- Ability to communicate effectively with others, both orally and in writing, using both technical and non-technical language;
- Ability to understand and follow oral and/or written policies, procedures, and instructions;
- Ability to prepare and present accurate and reliable reports containing findings and recommendations;
- Ability to operate a personal computer using standard or customized software applications appropriate to assigned tasks;
- Ability to use logical and creative thought processes to develop solutions according to written specifications and/or oral instructions;
- Ability to perform a wide variety of duties and responsibilities with accuracy and speed under the pressure of time-sensitive deadlines;
- Ability and willingness to quickly learn and put to use new skills and knowledge brought about by rapidly changing information and/or technology;
- Ability to exercise integrity, ingenuity, and inventiveness in the performance of assigned tasks.

Acceptable Experience and Training

Any combination of training and/or experience which is equivalent to:

- High School Diploma or GED.

Required Special Qualifications

- Valid Class C California State Driver's License.

Not required to apply, test and be placed on eligibility list, but must possess to be considered for hire as vacancies occur:

- A valid Emergency Medical Technician I;
- A valid State of California Firefighter I Certificate.

Possession of, or ability to obtain, within twelve (12) months of appointment:

- A valid Class B California Driver's License;
- ETAD Certificate;
- A valid Medical Examiners Certificate (CDL);
- A valid Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations Certificate (FRO);
- A valid Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations Decontamination Certificate (Decon);
- Defibrillation certificate (if not included with Emergency Medical Technician I certificate).

Essential Physical Abilities

- Sufficient clarity of speech and hearing or other communication capabilities, with or without reasonable accommodation, to permit the employee to communicate effectively;
- Sufficient vision or other powers of observation, with or without reasonable accommodation, to permit the employee to review a wide variety of materials in electronic or hard copy form, operate related vehicles and equipment, inspect fire scenes, and perform all fire prevention, fire suppression, and other related fire operations as required;
- Sufficient manual dexterity, with or without reasonable accommodation, to permit the employee to operate a personal computer, telephone, and other related office equipment and use firefighting equipment in emergency situations;
- Sufficient personal mobility and physical reflexes, with or without reasonable accommodation, to enable the employee to safely lift, move, or maneuver whatever may be necessary to successfully perform the duties of their position;
- Sufficient personal mobility and physical reflexes, with or without reasonable accommodation, to permit the employee to easily access a variety of City locations and efficiently and effectively carry out all physical duties involved in suppression and prevention of firefighting.